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MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation Committee

From: Jesse Elam, Senior Planner

Date: September 5, 2012

Re: Congestion pricing study for GO TO 2040 major capital projects

The implementation of congestion pricing is a major recommendation of CMAP's regional comprehensive plan GO TO 2040. While a range of previous studies, including work by CMAP, Illinois Tollway and the Metropolitan Planning Council, have analyzed pricing as a congestion management strategy, the region has not yet seen much momentum behind the implementation of congestion pricing on a project level. Several challenges and informational barriers remain, such as how congestion pricing might impact local streets, how the revenues might be used, and how different income classes might change their behavior as a result. The present study is meant to address some of these questions, primarily by using a recently developed activity-based transportation demand model that simulates individual drivers' responses to policies like congestion pricing.

The study tests the effects of implementing congestion pricing on new expressway capacity recommended in GO TO 2040. Primary research questions include:

- What are typical travel time savings with congestion pricing?
- To what extent would congestion change on expressways and on corridor arterials?
- What level of toll would be required to achieve free-flow speeds?
- Would users of congestion-priced facilities be significantly wealthier than other drivers?
- How would corridor mode share change if congestion pricing were implemented?
- How often would the typical driver choose to use the express lane?
- How much revenue would be generated by congestion pricing?
- How could the revenues from congestion pricing be used?

The results of the study will be presented to the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee at their joint October meeting. A fact sheet describing the results will also be made available. A "microsite" associated with the CMAP website but devoted to congestion pricing will also be launched at that time.